

## Anthony Butler to Andrew Jackson, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### COLONEL ANTHONY BUTLER TO JACKSON.

Mexico City, [November? 1835.]<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The context seems to show that this letter was written earlier than that of Dec. 19, 1835. Butler was recalled Dec. 16, 1835.

*Dear Sir,* Genl. Santa Anna is at his Hacienda waiting the turn of Events, and thus I have not yet been able to see him: the disturbed State of the Country operates against my plans, but it can only do so to postpone not defeat them. You have heard of the Revolt in Texas, where it is said there has been some skirmishing between the Mexican Troops, and the Texas Riflemen, always resulting in favor of the latter, but at this remote 26 distance from the Theatre of Action we receive the news slowly, and very seldom with accuracy unless it be through an Official Communication made to the Government, and none such have been recd. recently. The course pursued by the people of Texas has greatly exasperated Gen. Santa Anna as we hear, and he vows to chastise the insolence of these borderers even if he goes in person to do so, and this will have the effect of delaying my operations, for the President will probably do nothing on the subject untill his temper subsides. Tomorrow or the next day I shall send a *Confidential Agent* to Gen. Santa Anna with proposals, which will be backed by the influence of such as *we can rely upon* , and I am not without hopes of accomplishing my objects within a reasonable time, in the mean while I beg you will be patient, allow me three or four months in which to work steadily, cautiously and securely, and my life on it that I bring you the Treaty before the Adjournment of Congress. You shall be advised from time to time of the progress I am

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making, so as to enable you to be prepared, and I beg you to reply to me immediately, and say distinctly and positively how long I may employ myself on this Subject *for the Government*. I ask this positive instruction because the letter of Mr. Forsyth to me is somewhat obscure, and seems to limit me to December next remarking, that if the work is not accomplished by that time *I must return home*.

Now it may happen that in the present condition of the Country, it will be impossible to complete the business in Decr. next, although the prospect is fair, nay the event as certain as any human event can be, that in Jany. or by Feby it will be done. In such a state of things it is my object to ascertain, whether *my efforts in behalf of the Govt.* are to cease in Decr. or whether I may exercise a fair discretion and continue them longer, and for this purpose I now write you, and wish to be relieved from all doubt on the subject. If my exertions in behalf of the Government are to continue beyond December tell me so, relying on me to cease them, and return the moment I can be convinced that they will be fruitless. If however I am limited in point of time, if you say that in December I must cease acting as the Representative of the U.States on this question, you shall be obeyed strictly, yet I shall not *return* as Mr. Forsyth says, on the contrary I shall remain and continue my efforts for a private association of Individuals. I have labored at this Negotiation too long, and have its success too deeply at heart, to omit struggling so long as there is a fair prospect of success, and as I am thoroughly persuaded, that I shall attain the object by being allowed a reasonable time, my determination is to continue my exertions untill success crowns the effort, if not for my Government (which I greatly prefer doing) then for a Company already formed with the object of making the purchase, and who have solicited my aid to do so, not knowing that the Government is in pursuit of the same object. I keep them in suspense by saying that whenever a fair prospect is presented for commencing their operations I will inform them of it, and they may enter upon the subject. In this way the Association is kept in check by waiting on me for information, and I avoid a conflict of purchasers, secure the object for the U.States if possible, and in the event of failure, either for want of time

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allowed me, or for any other cause, the field will be open to private enterprize. Relying on hearing from you immediately in reply to this I remain

Dear Sir very Respectfully

This goes by private hand to our consul at Tampico or Matamoras. Pray frank this letter to Mr. Livingston, and give it the proper address as I do not know what Post-Office in N. York to direct it to.